

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 EUR-25 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 CCO-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USSS-00 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 /180 W

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R 181235Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7447

INFO USUN NEW YORK 1572

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 12170

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IN XF

SUBJECT: INDIAN REACTION TO MIDDLE EAST FIGHTING

REF: NEW DELHI 11856

1. WHILE INTELLECTUAL AND PRESS INTEREST CONTINUES HIGH, WE DO NOT SENSE MUCH INDIAN FEELING OF INVOLVEMENT IN MIDDLE EAST WAR. GOI HAS NEITHER APPROACHED US NOR COMMENTED PUBLICLY YET ON REPORTS OF OUR RESUPPLY EFFORTS.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD THE PRESS OCTOBER 16 IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION THAT THE WAR WAS OF "GRAVE CONCERN" TO INDIA BUT HAD NOT YET AFFECTED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HERE. QUERIED WHETHER INDIA WOULD TAKE ANY INITIATIVE, SHE POICID TO THE UNSUCCESSFUL UN EFFORTS AND ASKED WHAT INITIATIVE WOULD BE POSSIBLE. A FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN CITED HER COMMENTS IN DENYING A WIRE SERVICE REPORT FROM WASHINGTON THAT INDIA MIGHT TRY TO MEDIATE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

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3. AFTER LONG NEGOTIATIONS INDIA AGREED TO BALANCED LANGUAGE ON THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON THE KING OF NEPAL'S VISIT. THE

TWO COUNTRIES EXPRESSED ONLY THEIR "GRAVE ANXIETY" AND CALLED "FOR AN EARLY RESTORATION OF PEACE AND FOR A JUST AND ENDURING SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS ON THE SUBJECT."

4. PUBLIC REACTION HAS BROKEN DOWN LARGELY ALONG COMMUNAL AND POLITICAL PARTY LINES, WITH THE MUSLIMS, PRO-MOSCOW COMMUNISTS AND LEFTIST MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS PARTY INCREASINGLY CRITICAL OF THE US. ONE OR ANOTHER OF THE LATTER GROUPS HAS SPONSORED DEMONSTRATIONS IN FRONT OF OUR OFFICES IN BOMBAY (300 MUSLIM LEAGUERS OCTOBER 12), CALCUTTA (THREE DEMONSTRATIONS OCTOBER 15, ONE OF 600 MUSLIMS), MADRAS (200 MUSLIMS OCT 17), AND DELHI (200 MUSLIM LEAGUERS OCTOBER 14 AND 250 PRO-MOSCOW COMMUNISTS AND CONGRESS PARTY MEMBERS OCTOBER 16). THE NUMBERS HAVE NOT BEEN LARGE BY INDIAN STANDARDS AND POLICE PROTECTION AS USUAL HAS BEEN QUITE ADEQUATE. ELEMENTS OF THE NON-COMMUNIST PRESS ARE BEGINNING TO CRITICIZE THE USG RESUPPLY AND THE ALLEGED INTERVENTION THREAT BY PRESIDENT NIXON. THE GOVERNMENT-RUN RADIO AND TV HAVE EMPHASIZED US AS OPPOSED TO SOVIET ARMS SHIPMENTS. OUTSPOKEN MUSLIM AND LEFTIST SUPPORT FOR THE ARAB CAUSE HAS PRODUCED A REACTION FROM THE TRADITIONAL ANTI-MUSLIM JANA SANGH AND FROM THE MILITANT SHIV SENA IN BOMBAY, BOTH OF WHICH HAVE STIRRED SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL.  
MOYNIHAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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